

Rockingham Post-Dispatch

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Section Two
Pages Nine To Twelve

GERMAN LOSSES FIXED AT 300,000

OFFICIAL FRENCH STATEMENT
SAYS GERMANS ARE SENDING
WOUNDED TO BELGIUM.

TO DECEIVE THEIR PEOPLE

Kaiser Would Not Have His People
Know Awful Slaughter of His Men
at the Western Front.

Washington.—A French official estimate of the German losses in the great battle on the western front puts their casualties at between 275,000 and 300,000 men. The Germans are sending most of their wounded to Belgium, it is declared, to conceal from the German people their heavy losses.

It has been possible to identify, the dispatch says, nearly 100 German divisions, more than 10 of which were twice engaged. Some of the divisions, it is declared, had to be relieved at the end of the first day after losing more than half their men.

The dispatch follows:
"After an 11 days' offensive, during which the Germans have recklessly pushed forward their attacking waves, one may gather a fairly accurate estimate of their losses.

"In the first place, it has been possible to identify nearly 100 of their divisions since the beginning of the offensive, more than 10 of which were twice engaged. Some divisions had to be relieved at the end of the first day, having lost more than half of their men; such was the case of the 45th and the 88th. The latter has been nearly entirely wiped out. Among those that have suffered the most are the 5th, 12th, 28th and 107th divisions, as well as the 2nd (Prussian guard), the 16th, the 21st and 26th divisions of reserves.

"In the second place, an enormous number of corpses were found on the battleground, and the prisoners on being questioned acknowledge the extent of the losses of their respective units.

"To conceal from the German people the heavy sacrifices that their offensive methods required, the Germans are sending most of their wounded to Belgium.

"It is not an exaggeration to estimate the total of their losses at between 275,000 and 300,000 men."

GERMAN ARMIES' ADVANCE ALMOST AT A STANDSTILL

While the advance of the German armies in Picardy has come almost to a halt, there has been severe fighting on the extreme edge of the battle zone. Encounters in which large forces have been engaged have occurred north of Moreuil, but there seems to be no decided advantage gained by the Teutonic invaders. They claim to have taken heights and to have carried a wood in advance of their line near Moreuil, but the British say that they have driven back the enemy from positions they have occupied elsewhere in this sector.

The French lines further south have stood firm against savage assaults, especially in the region of Montdidier and eastward of that place along part of the line which was subjected to a terrific strain for two days late last week. In a number of sectors the French have surged forward and taken hard-earned ground from the Germans and have established their lines solidly along the Oise river. The expected allied counter-offensive has not yet come, but the Germans, who are reported to be entrenching along the French front, evidently expect it there.

The elements have been at work in delaying the German advance. Rains are reported along the French and British fronts. Wet weather, if continued, would handicap further advance of the Germans and be of infinite value to the allies, who are moving their forces and supplies over solid ground instead of ground which has been churned into a condition where every step is beset by difficulties.

EVERYTHING ON DUTCH SHIPS TO BE SEIZED

Washington.—Formal orders for the taking over of all tackle, apparel, furniture and equipment, including bunker coal and stores belonging to the Dutch ships in American ports which have been seized by the United States were issued by President Wilson. Some of the masters of the vessels removed, or attempted to remove, navigating instruments, glasses and other equipment when they surrendered possession of their ships.

WILL H. HAYS



Will H. Hays, the new chairman of the Republican National Committee, though only thirty-eight years old, has developed the natural Indiana gift of politics from the precinct organization through the state chairmanship and right into his present position without a hitch in his record for success as a political organizer. In the last general election as chairman of the Indiana organization he turned what looked like defeat into a big Republican victory. He is a lawyer with a large practice.

SUBSTITUTED INFERIOR METAL

RESPONSIBLE FOR PART OF DELAY IN PROGRAM SAYS NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR.

Investigation Into Delay Started By Senate Military Committee in Secret.—90 Days Behind Schedule.

Washington.—Investigation into delay in the airplane program was begun by the senate military committee behind closed doors after several days of discussion in the senate which culminated in the assertion by Senator Overman, of North Carolina, that part of the trouble was due to German spies in the Curtiss plant which as extensive government contracts.

Members of the committee were pledged to secrecy and Chairman Chamberlain announced that no statement would be issued until the inquiry had been completed.

Maj. Gen. George O. Squires, chief signal officer, and Colonel Deeds, of the aviation branch, were the first witnesses called. They remained with the committee nearly four hours. The committee plans to hear Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell, who has just returned from a visit to the American front in France. Later Commander Briggs, of the British flying corps; Colonel Waldon, of the American signal corps, and Howard Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board, will be called.

Senator Overman furnished Chairman Chamberlain with the names of his informants, so that they can be called. His speech followed charges that instead of having by July 1, 12,000 airplanes in France or ready for shipment as provided in the original program, that number would total only 37 and that the American airplane program was 90 days behind schedule.

Senator Overman said although he would make no charge against any one employee of the Curtiss concern, there were spies there and were he secretary of war he would commandeer the plant and put in new employees. A metallic brace used in the construction of airplane frames from which a piece of metal had been removed and lead inserted so as to weaken it, was exhibited by the senator as a sample of spies' work.

The first machine tested at the plant fell, he said, and on investigation showed that this jampering had been the cause. A delay of two months followed, while government inspectors went over every airplane part in order to replace parts which spies had weakened.

DEATHS AMONG TROOPS IN AMERICA INCREASED.

Washington.—Although health conditions in general among the troops training in this country are described in this week's reports of the division of field sanitation as "very good," deaths among the soldiers increased from 190 the week before to 223. Pneumonia increased in the national army and regulars, but in the national guard all epidemic diseases are declining.

100,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO FRONT

PERSHING'S ENTIRE FORCE HAS
BEEN GIVEN INTO HANDS
OF GENERAL FOCH.

ON THEIR WAY TO FRONT

Germans Lose Great Numbers in Killed and Wounded—French and British Make Gains.

The American army in France is to fight shoulder to shoulder with the British and French troops who now are engaged in the titanic struggle with the Germans in Picardy. General Pershing's entire force has been given into the hands of General Foch, the new generalissimo, who is to use the men where he desires.

More than 100,000 Americans, intensively trained and fully accoutred, are available or immediate use in aiding to stem the tide of the German hordes, and large numbers of them, on railroad trains and in motor trucks, and even afoot, already are on their way to the battle front, eager to do their part in defeating the invaders.

The miserable weather which has broken over the country is proving no deterrent to the Americans as they push forward from all directions toward the battle zone.

The acceptance by France of General Pershing's offer for all American men and material for the present emergency has in effect virtually resulted in a unified army command, so far as the French army and American forces are concerned. This is shown by the fact that the orders issued to the American troops are of French origin.

Great activity continued throughout the zone where the American troops are quartered, etc., as sent.

Even more activity was observed behind the German lines opposite the American front on the Toul sector. An entire battalion was seen on the march. Infantry at other points was being shifted about, while the cavalry also was seen again. Numerous automobiles of members of the German staff made their appearance behind the lines.

Three American patrols penetrated the enemy's lines. One patrol went in until electrically charged barbed wire was encountered. This was cut. Enemy sniping posts took warning and opened fire on the Americans, who were forced to retreat. No casualties were suffered.

Another patrol inspected German front line trenches, but did not encounter a single German. The third patrol penetrated the enemy's wire field to a French airplane which fell there last week. The engine of the plane was found to have been removed.

The enemy gas-shelled the American batteries without effect.

On Way to Front Lines.

Washington.—The announcement that American soldiers actually are on their way to the fighting lines to take places beside their hard-pressed British and French allies, sent a thrill throughout the national capital. It was the first positive statement that General Pershing's forces actually are on their way to the battle lines to help stem the tide of the German drive.

The American soldiers previously referred to in the official dispatches being in the fighting are believed to have been the engineers or other auxiliary troops, which probably were caught at their work, as they were a few months ago at Cambrai when the Germans suddenly enveloped parties of British forces behind their lines in a swift turning movement.

The sending of General Pershing's fighting troops to places in the British-French line has been expected by military experts to follow the creation of a unified command under the French chief of staff, General Foch, and General Pershing's formal offer of all the available American resources.

KING GEORGE VISITS HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE

London.—Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France, describing King George's visit to the front, says:

"In the course of an inspection the king visited an airdrome, where he inspected an American section, the members of which he congratulated upon their fine and smart appearance, praise which was well justified, for a flicker looking set of lads never yet swore to drive Huns out of the air."

GENERAL FOCH



General Foch, the great French strategist, has been placed in supreme command of all the entente allied armies.

GERMAN CASUALTIES 400,000

THE BRITISH REGAIN GROUND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SOMME RIVER.

British Have Repulsed Heavy Attacks and Driven Germans Back Across the Ancre River.

The stretch of the great German offensive in France apparently is fast diminishing. On the seventh day of the titanic battle there were strong indications that the enemy was feeling materially the strain he had undergone and that his power had been greatly impaired through hard usage.

While the town of Albert has been captured from the British and west of Roye the French have been compelled to give ground in the face of greatly superior numbers, the British have repulsed heavy attacks, both north and south of the Somme and also driven back across the Ancre river the Germans who forded the stream. The fighting still continues of a sanguinary character on all these sectors, but everywhere the British and French are holding the enemy. Especially severe has been the fighting west of Albert, where the Germans, in an endeavor to debouch westward were repulsed by Field Marshal Haig's men with the heaviest casualties.

All along the 50-mile front, from the region of Arras to the south of the Oise, near Noyon, the effects of what was to have been the final stroke to end the war in a victory for the Teutons are only too plainly evident in the redevastation of the countryside and the wreck and ruin of the towns, villages and hamlets through which the armies have passed.

About 25 miles represents the greatest point of penetration made at any place by the enemy in his advance, and on the northern and southern ends of the big salient he has left his flanks dangerously open to counterattacks, which, if successful, possibly might result in a retreat greater than the 1916 retrograde movement of von Hindenburg and nullify in its entirety the drive that has been accomplished. It is not improbable that British and French reserves, and possibly American troops, known to be behind the battle front soon will be thrown against the weakened enemy.

Notwithstanding the sternness of the German drive, nowhere has the British or French front, along the latter of which American troops have given a good account of their ability as fighters, been even dented. Ground has been given, it is true, but so skillfully and with such precision of movement that from north to south a surveyor scarcely could have worked out a more even line. Still intact in the hands of the allied forces are portions of the old line from which Hindenburg fell back in his "strategic" retirement in 1916.

GENERAL FOCH HAS SUPREME COMMAND

ALL FORCES OPPOSING GERMANY
IN FRANCE ARE FIGHTING UNDER
SINGLE COMMANDER.

EARLY 'STRIKE-BACK' EXPECTED

Germany Claims 70,000 Prisoners and 1,100 Guns Captured Since Drive Began—American Forces Offered Foch.

The entente forces opposing Germany in France are, for the first time during the war, fighting under the control of a single commander. General Foch, the great French strategist, to whom has been accorded much of the credit for the victory of the Marne in September, 1914, is generalissimo of the entente allied armies in France. This report was received in the form of an unofficial dispatch from London, but in the evening it was officially confirmed by advices to Washington from Paris.

Early in the day, President Wilson sent a personal cable message of congratulation to General Foch and General Pershing placed at the disposal of the French commander the American forces now on French soil. General Foch is given supreme command over all the men on the battle lines, and, in addition, has a strategic reserve force, the size and location of which is not known, but which, judging from reports, is very large.

After eight days, during which it has swept forward over the rolling hills of Picardy, at times like a tidal wave, the German offensive has slowed down. Instead of a sweeping advance, its progress has been checked at all but one sector of the front, and there it has been merely creeping for the last two days—this fact even admitted by the German war office, which usually concedes nothing.

From Arleux, north of Arras, to Albert, on the Somme, the British lines have been holding stubbornly and have thrust back the Germans at a number of points. From Albert south to Montdidier, there has been a slow movement to the west, but the hills west of Montdidier are still being held by the French. No ground has been made against the French along the southern side of the salient driven into the allied lines, while it is asserted that the French counter attack from Lassigny to Noyon is still going on. The extreme depth of the German wedge now is about 37 miles.

Soon, if Effective.

When this blow, if it comes, will fall, or where, is as yet sealed in the minds of the men directing the progress of military affairs for the allies, but seemingly it must come soon, if it is to be effective. The German advance now is converging on Amiens, the railroad center of northern France, which is known to be the ganglion from which run the main communications of the British army in northern France. The railroads from Paris to Amiens was cut by the Germans at Montdidier, but this would not be vital if Amiens itself is held by the allies.

The German thrust in front of Arras, while, according to Berlin, it netted thousands of prisoners, has apparently come to a stop before Orange Hill, Telegraph Hill and the labyrinth, strongholds held by the British in this sector. Repeated mass attacks by the Germans on these points have resulted in terrible losses to them, without, however, breaking the line and causing more than a straightening of the front before Arras.

MANY WIFE WHEAT OFF HOTEL MENUS

Washington.—Wheat and wheat products were wiped off the menus of several hundred of the country's leading hotels in response to a request of the food administration that "every independent, every well-to-do person in the United States" should pledge complete abstinence from wheat until the next harvest.

CLASS OF 1919 TO BE CALLED TO THE COLORS

Paris, March 29.—The soldiers of the class of 1919 are to be called to the colors at an early date, which is to be fixed by the ministry of war. This was decided on by a vote of the chamber of deputies this afternoon. It is known that the ministry of war has decreed that the recruits shall report April 15. The chamber voted 490 to 7 on a law providing that the date of the calling of the class be advanced,

YOUR LOYALTY TO COUNTRY'S CAUSE

ARE YOU MAKING SACRIFICES
EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF
OUR SOLDIERS?

ALL CAN FIND WAY TO HELP

Make No Ridiculous Reservations; Hold Back Nothing; Share Your Money, Your Food and Your Clothing to Aid the Great War.

(By VIRGINIA TERHUNE VAN DE WATER of the Vigilantes.)

A good woman was discussing the rules of the food administration.

"I am doing a lot for my country," she said, "but there are certain trifles that I do not intend to give up. Such as white bread and bacon."

"No," she said in response to my astonished look, "I mean to have white bread when I want it. Why should I eat corn bread and other substitutes? I like white bread just as much as the soldiers and sailors do. And, anyway, what difference can it make if I use a little white flour and a few slices of bacon every day? I am only one person."

Only one of millions! Suppose they all took that attitude!

"I am no slacker," she added. "I work at the Red Cross four afternoons of each week, and I have made dozens of knitted things for the soldiers. But I draw the line at bacon and white bread and rolls."

Is this patriotism? I remembered the text: "These things ought ye to have done, and not to have left the other undone."

Another good woman was talking of the next Liberty Loan drive.

"Well," she declared, "they need not come to me for help! I am a business woman, and I have lost money on countless Mondays, and since the government has made me do that I do not propose to help with their Liberty loan. I love my country, and I am a Red Cross worker, and all that—but there is a limit."

Should Be No Limit.

A limit! Is there any limit to what she would do if her nearest and dearest were fighting for his life? Would she stop to argue that she had given the suffered expensive woolen underwear, but that she drew the line at the renunciation of certain comforts so that he might have them? Would she be considered a good wife or mother or daughter if she held this attitude towards husband, child or parent?

Let us stop all these ridiculous reservations, these talks of what we will do and won't do. Let us hold back nothing. Do the women who are sending their sons abroad hold back anything? Do these sons grudge risking their beautiful youth, their lives, for their country? Yet some people hesitate at white bread and bacon, and refuse to buy Liberty bonds!

The last-named hesitation is not only unpatriotic, but it is absurd. Later we will know the meaning of the expression, "What I give I have." The money we invest in Liberty bonds will be ours when other money that we now have is gone.

All such talk as I have quoted is wickedly unpatriotic. Let us give as our sons give—ungrudgingly, proudly, because we are counted worthy to make sacrifices for the greatest crusade against evil that the world has ever known.

Make It An Honorable Service.

What would the Son of Righteousness say to our hesitation about trifling luxuries? He died for his cause. We women are not called upon to do that. (Some of us may wish that we were.) But we are called to sacrifice our selfishness for it.

I am not making light of the wonderful work done by those women who toil at Red Cross stations; I am not forgetting the noble and vast army of wives, mothers, sisters and sweethearts who stop at nothing in their desire to help end the war honorably.

But I hope that such sentences as I have quoted go no further than the tip of the tongue. If they do, shame to the speakers. And shame to us who let such speech pass uncorrected.

"His very living—such was Christ's giving."

We women "have not yet resisted unto blood." But some of our men have, and—God help us!—many more may have to. Can we then endure the ignominy of remembering that even in our inner hearts we have paused to consider what delicacies we may use? Shall we not—in the language of our dear fighting boys—"cut out" all doubtful articles? And let us make of the trifling duty an honorable service. The cause ennobles all that it touches.

True Respectability.

Having the courage to live within one's means is respectability.